

REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed February 27, 2003. An appropriate Petition for Extension of Time to Respond is submitted herewith, together with the appropriate fee.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16. The present Response amends claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

RESPONSE TO REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §101

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16 under 35 USC §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner stated that the invention as recited in claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16 was an abstract idea that is not in the technological arts. Examiner further states that since the subject claims do not indicate the use of a computer or other technological means to carry out the steps as disclosed in the claims, a reasonably broad interpretation of the claim renders it outside the technological art and therefore the claims are analyzed as being non-statutory.

Applicant has amended the claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16 to more clearly recite one embodiment of the present invention wherein the method of the invention is carried out utilizing a computer program product. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce the original claims in subsequent continuation or divisional application. Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16 are directed to the display of information utilizing a computer program product.

Examiner further stated that claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16 comprised "a series of steps to be performed *presumably* on a computer." Applicant's amendment of the claims more clearly recite one embodiment of the present invention wherein the claim elements are performed by a computer. Thus, the analysis presented by

the Examiner regarding steps performed on a computer as a post-computer process activity or pre-computer process activity do not apply to the claims as amended.

Examiner further stated that claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16 recite the limitation “identifying an anchor point”, and that the term “identifying an anchor point” is abstract since one cannot define in concrete and tangible terms what defining an anchor point is. On page 8, lines 3-5, an anchor point is defined as being any point on a map and envisioned to represent multiple locations or all locations within a geographic area. Applicant submits the limitation and/or term “identifying an anchor point” is defined for the purposes 35 USC §101.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims overcome the rejection under 35 USC §101 and requests the rejection be withdrawn.

RESPONSE TO REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §112

Examiner states that claim 1 recites limitations without reciting an element that accomplish the limitations. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16 to more clearly recite an embodiment of the present invention, wherein the invention is performed utilizing a computer program product. Thus, the steps recited in claim 1 are performed by computer program product code. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce the original claims in subsequent continuation or divisional application. Applicant respectfully submits the amended claims overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112 and requests the rejection be withdrawn.

RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-16 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,101,496 (AEsposito@). Examiner states that Esposito discloses a identifying an anchor point (col. 1, lines 24-35 and col. 4, lines 9-17) and defining at least one radial extending from the anchor point (col. 7, lines 12-53 and FIG. 6). Examiner further states that Esposito discloses a radial (a line)

extending from an anchor point (a star) in FIG. 5. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection based on Esposito.

Esposito discloses a method of improving geocoding interpolation by combining ordered data with prior geocoded data to locate addresses on a map. As shown in FIG. 3-1, OI data records 22 are compared against an existing georeferenced library 32. Esposito then classifies the assignment of the address location to one of a group of classification headings, from best case location assignment to unmatched. “The OIID [Ordered Information Identification Tags] and Census FIPS data [...] are added to existing records.” (col. 4, line 67 to col. 5, line 5).

Esposito does not disclose defining a radial extending from an anchor point or associating at least one item relating to said anchor point with said radials. To the contrary, FIG. 6 discloses several street segments, as indicated by the key in the lower left hand corner of FIG. 6. The street segments are portions of a street to which addresses can be assigned using interpolation. Radials are not street segments. Though the Examiner cited nearly the entire column 7 in reference to FIG. 6, nowhere in column 7 does Esposito disclose a radial extending from an anchor point.

Furthermore, Esposito does not disclose a radial (“a line” as stated by Examiner) extending from an anchor point (“a star” as stated by the Examiner) in FIG. 5. Similar to FIG. 6, the key indicates that the line is an actual Campbell Drive street segment. Unlike a radial, the street segment is placed on the map along the particular street. As discussed above and known by those skilled in the art, radials are not street segments. For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants submit that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Esposito to arrive at the invention as claimed in claim 1.

Claims 3, 4 and 6-16 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore allowable for the reasons stated above in addition to the distinguishing elements they recite. Additionally, since Esposito does not disclose the concept of a radial as discussed above, Esposito does not disclose the invention as claimed in claim 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 16 which recite limitations regarding a radial. Applicant further submits that it is not obvious to arrive at

the satellite limitations recited in claims 8 and 9 based on Esposito, as Esposito does not teach, hint or suggest any technical matter related to satellite mapping nor is Esposito in the same technical field as satellite mapping. Furthermore, Esposito clearly does not disclose assigning a direction to each respective radial as recited in claims 12 and 13 and calculating an endpoint for each respective radial in claim 12 by the street segments illustrated in FIG. 5, 6 and 7 and the corresponding text cited by the Examiner. Applicant further submits that it would not be obvious to have a margin of error in Esposito "because such a modification would allow Esposito to have at least one margin of error" as stated by the Examiner on page 9 of the Office Action.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 recites the elements discussed above that distinguish the claimed invention from Esposito. Claims 3, 4 and 6-16 all directly or indirectly depend from independent claim 1 in addition to containing additional distinguishing elements not disclosed by Esposito. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in position to overcome this rejection and requests the rejection be withdrawn.

The references cited by the Examiner but not relied upon have been reviewed, but are not believed to render the claims unpatentable, either singly or in combination.

Conclusion


In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including June 27, 2003.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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